

As the owner of a Small Internet Service Provider, I'm writing to call your attention to something disturbing happening at the FCC - All the local exchange carriers (Qwest, Verizon, Bellsouth, and SBC) have petitioned the FCC for "Forbearance" on DSL lines.

If the FCC approves these requests, it would eliminate the requirement for the phone companies to provide equal access to the phone network to Independent ISP's.

If the bells get their way, the FCC will be handing over exclusive access to DSL lines and high-speed internet to these mega-corporations. Consumers will have fewer choices - and businesses such as mine will suffer.

Specifically, Qwest has been easier to deal with than the other ILEC we have in our area (Verizon). The Qwest petition does not seek the same far-reaching powers that the other petitions seek. However, we feel that the if the FCC grants one petition, it will be induced to grant them all. This concerns us.

Please support small business and consumers - we need to maintain equal access to DSL lines. Please say NO to the Bell's petitions for forbearance.